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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville District

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Louisville District®

Cannelton Locks and Dam: Power of Ohio River harnessed to create green energy

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Special Report:
Ohio River open despite gate failure at Markland

Sonar aids in investigation and repair

See Page 3

Courtesy of Navigation and Dredging Team of Operations

Commander's Comments

Army photo digitally enhanced

Col. Keith A. Landry, Ph.D., P.E.
Commander and District Engineer
Louisville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Team:

Here we are at the end of September—at the cusp of an incredible year. We executed over $2 billion and added over 175 members to the team while doing so.

We are responding well to the miter gate failure at Markland Locks and Dam.

In Fiscal Year 09 we had 73 deployments through our Emergency Operations Center —44 civil and 29 to Iraq or Afghanistan.

We responded well during the largest winter natural disaster to hit the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

We've had more than 14 million visitors to our lakes and locks the past 12 months with a 40 percent reduction in fatalities.

Our Regulatory branch issued thousands of different types of permits.

We're having great progress on Reserve BRAC. For BRAC, Army Reserve and Grow the Army (GTA) military construction (MILCON), we awarded 41 of 49 projects.

The Human Resources Center of Excellence down at Fort Knox is looking fantastic. We're on schedule to complete—by June 3, 2010—what will be the biggest building ever constructed on Fort Knox.

We're also making steady progress at Olmsted Locks & Dam. We were fortunate to have Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell visit the site in August. This was his first visit, and I walked away comfortable knowing that the Senator understands how important that project is to the economic security of Kentucky, the region and the nation.

We also opened up the new McAlpine Lock in June. What an engineering feat. The district has had a significant economic impact on the region and nation.

Last year the Louisville District awarded $380 million in contracts to small businesses; this year that has grown to over $450 million (a 20% increase). I know everyone on the team pushed hard to get everything done in FY09. I can't tell you enough, but I really appreciate everyone's dedication and tenacious pursuit of our performance goals. Going from "Good to Great" in support of the Chief of Engineer's vision is our next significant challenge. No doubt in my mind that this district can lock arms with our customers, stakeholders and USACE partners to make superior performance routine. Let's make FY10 the year we get to Great!

Deputy Commander supports new infrastructure

Contributed by Amy Babey, planning division

Deputy District Commander Lt. Col. Stephen Bales attended two announcement ceremonies with Kentucky Rep. Hal Rogers Aug. 13. The congressman announced two new Section 531 Environmental Infrastructure projects,–one in Campton, Ky., and the other in West Liberty, Ky.,– where the Louisville District will serve as the federal cost-share partner. Bales commented on the excellent relationship that the Corps has with Rogers' office and with the Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment (PRIDE) organization in providing infrastructure to the communities in eastern Kentucky. These infrastructure projects will eliminate straight pipes and failing septic systems to improve water quality in the region.

Amy Babey

Lt. Col. Stephen Bales (left) and Rep. Hal Rogers (center) gather with the local cost-share partners and members of the PRIDE organization to present $600,000 to the city of West Liberty, Ky.

Ohio River is open despite Markland gate failure

"The river and our locks are great economic resources. If you shut down any lock in this Ohio River lock system, it has an effect on the economy."

-Rep. Geoff Davis, Kentucky, 4th District

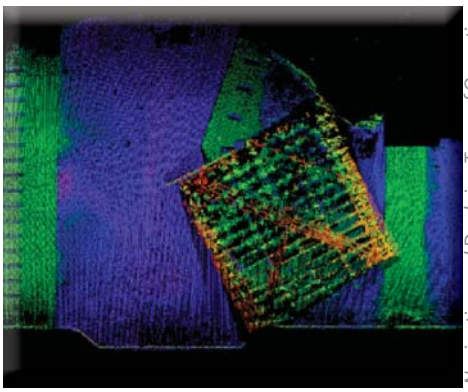
Carol Labashosky

The land-wall miter gate leaf hangs in the 1,200 foot lock chamber while the other miter gate leaf is submerged underwater. The Louisville Repair Station prepares to assess the damage.

By Carol Labashosky, public affairs

Carol Labashosky

Rep. Geoff Davis and Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry discuss the way ahead and emphasize the importance of the inland waterways system during Tuesday's news conference at Markland.



Navigation and Dredging Team of Operations

A sonar image of the lock floor shows the submerged river-wall miter gate leaf.

Despite a miter gate failure at the Markland Locks on the Ohio River in Warsaw, Ky. Sept. 27, tows are still locking through the auxiliary 600 foot chamber.

By Tuesday morning, Sept. 29, all tows and vessels had locked and navigation queue was empty.

"The river is open and we are locking tows through the 600 foot chamber," said Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry.

The Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District has preliminary repair plans underway to fix the Markland Lock Gate at Warsaw, Ky. The downstream lock gate on the 1,200-by-110 foot chamber failed during operation Sunday. One of the two leaves is resting on the bottom of the lock chamber and the other inoperable lock leaf is still affixed to the lock chamber; it requires stabilization.

The Corps received funding in 2009 for new miter gates for Markland. Oregon Iron Works in Eugene, Ore., was awarded the contract to place new miter gates. The miter gates were scheduled for delivery in 2010 with installation in 2011.

"One prong of the repair plan is to work with Oregon Iron Works to move up the delivery date of the new set of lock gates," said Landry. "The other is to assess what kind of damage has been done to the gate and see if they can be repaired."

A board of investigation has been convened to investigate and determine the cause of miter gate failure. Information from this report will become part of a lessons learned.

On Monday, Sept. 28, sonar and underwater videography were used to locate the fallen miter gate leaf and pinpoint its position. The miter gate leaf is on the bulkhead sill on the bottom of the lock chamber. Moving the lock gate or raising it is critical to the repair plan because bulkheads need to be placed in the chamber so water can be drained from the lock chamber and the repair initiated.

"At the end of the day, the river and our locks are great economic resources," said Rep. Geoff Davis, Kentucky, 4th District. "If you shut down any lock in this Ohio River lock system, it has an effect on the economy."

For fact sheets and additional information go to:

http://bit.ly/Markland_gate_failure.

Power of Ohio River harnessed to create green energy

On Aug. 5, 2009 American Municipal Power, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and local and state officials break ground on the new hydropower plant at Cannelton Locks and Dam.

Katie Newton

By Katie Newton, public affairs

On Aug. 5, 2009, American Municipal Power (AMP), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and local and state officials broke ground on the new hydropower plant at Cannelton Locks and Dam.

On the banks of the Ohio River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, is helping to make strides toward American energy independence with the groundbreaking of its first hydropower facility in nearly 45 years.

The four-year construction project will result in an 84-megawatt hydropower plant that will create energy and provide power to approximately 35,000 homes in the region. Power will be generated by using the difference in water surface elevations created by the existing dam for navigation.

This project is the first of five hydroelectric projects on the Ohio River that together will supply more than 350 megawatts of renewable energy into the region and will help to make the Ohio River Valley a showcase for alternative energy sources, according to Marc Gerken, AMP president and CEO.

"This hydropower facility is great because it produces energy in such an environmentally friendly way," said Ken Lamkin, Louisville District hydropower coordinator. "There is no input of fossil fuels, and long-term maintenance is very low. Hydropower is very sustainable; it's a very beneficial way of using the raw power of the Ohio River that's naturally there."

Currently, the project is in phase one which places rock and filler into the river to build the cofferdam.

"What a valuable and huge asset that river is for the Commonwealth of Kentucky," said Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear. "We need to be taking every advantage we can of that river. It can play a huge role in the future development of all of our counties, all of our cities lying along it."

AMP, the project sponsor, is a wholesale power supplier and services provider for six states. AMP also partners with the FERC, which oversees the development of these types of hydroelectric projects, and the Corps of Engineers.

"Hydropower is very sustainable; it's a very beneficial way of using the raw power of the Ohio River that's naturally there."

-Ken Lamkin, Louisville District Hydropower Coordinator

"This is just another example of the great things that can happen when we partner together," said Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry.

The Corps has the responsibility to ensure the expanded function of the dam as a source of clean power without interfering with the original purpose of the dam.

"We have to balance being responsive to industry and maintaining good stewardship," said Landry.

Although the purpose of the plant is ultimately to create green, renewable energy, it also provides many other economic benefits such as creating jobs, lessening American dependence on foreign oil and reducing the costs of reliable energy.

"Energy is the currency of the future," said Beshear. "If we don't have power and the ability to produce it, or purchase it,

(*Continued on Page 5)*

STORY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

or transport it in bulk, then we don't have jobs. You don't have transportation–you don't have economic viability."

Job Creation

The project will bring jobs and economic development to the region. At its peak, the four-year construction project, expected to be complete in the fall of 2013, will employ approximately 400 workers.

"The hundreds of jobs provided during the four-year-long construction period are going to be a boon for Kentucky families and this whole area," said Beshear.

Once online, the project will employ 9-12 permanent operators.

Reduced dependence on foreign oil

Energy is a national security interest; the new plant and the power it produces are one step closer to reducing the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

"Unfortunately our power supply in the U.S. faces a lot of growing threats," said Beshear. "The United States is far too dependent on foreign sources of energy."

Kentucky Rep. Brett Guthrie emphasized the need to increase American energy independence. "The answer is in alternatives, and one of the great alternatives, here, is hydropower," he said.

Lower energy costs

"The beating sun, the blowing wind, and the rushing water–these are all powerful and unlimited forces. Harnessing those forces in a productive, efficient and cost-effective way takes creativity and it takes investment," said Beshear.

"It is the most reliable power at the lowest possible cost," said Jon Bisher, chair of the AMP board of trustees.

Hydroelectric facilities can generate an average of 65 percent of their capacity, compared to about 25 percent for wind and 10 percent for solar. Another benefit of hydropower versus other renewable energy sources is that river flow can be predicted more easily than sunshine or wind on any given day.

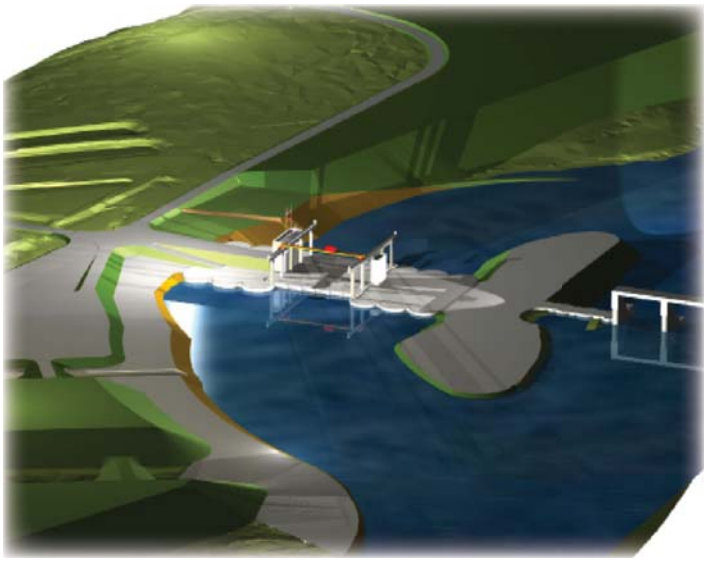
"An energy producer can forecast how much energy a hydropower facility will generate and be able to reduce generation or delay startup at thermal facilities, resulting in cost savings," said Lamkin.

"In this part of the country it is clear that hydroelectric generation is superior to other renewable technologies," said Gerken.

Additionally, consumers benefit from this project because they get a bigger bang for their buck since the dam serves a dual purpose.

"We are really maximizing taxpayer dollars in this circumstance," said Landry.

All of these benefits have been realized at AMP's first hydropower plant which was built in 1999 at Huntington District's Belleville Locks and Dam in West Virginia. Based on that success, AMP has prioritized the development of additional hydro resources. The Cannelton hydropower plant is the first of five plants currently under development. Next on the list is a proposed plant at Louisville District's Smithland Locks and Dam near Brookport, Ill.



Courtesy of American Municipal Power

A rendering of what the hydropower plant is expected to look like upon its completion in 2013.

"We have developed a key working relationship with the Corps," said Gerken. "We respect that relationship, and it's been a good one."

The future of hydropower at Corps locks and dams looks bright. AMP is planning to begin construction on the Smithland project this fall pending approval of outstanding Corps permit actions and approvals by FERC. Upon its completion, four of eight Louisville District dams on the Ohio River will support hydropower facilities.

On the Ohio River, there is existing hydropower in the following Corps districts:

- Hannibal (Pittsburgh)
- Belleville (Huntington)
- Racine (Huntington)
- Greenup (Huntington)
- Markland (Louisville)
- McAlpine (Louisville)

ARRA Update

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

The Louisville District ARRA program has funded jobs for 45 temporary park rangers within the operations division.

Wounded Warrior now a Corps employee

By John Neville, public affairs

District employee Luis Rivera-Rios never met his uncle. All he knew was what his parents told him—that his uncle was killed in the Vietnam War. Decades later, Rivera-Rios, too, would earn the Purple Heart, just like his uncle.

The Rivera-Rios family had a history of military service going back generations, and the 38-year-old from Puerto Rico knew that he wanted to carry on the tradition, especially after hearing of his uncle.

"Then 9/11 came, and that was my call," he said.

After Rivera-Rios returned home from basic training, he decided to research the events that led to his uncle's death. The Purple Heart citation provided the explanation. Rivera-Rios' uncle was killed in an ambush after he chased an escaping prisoner of war through the jungle.

Rivera-Rios, an Army reservist, soon returned to Puerto Rico where he served with the 389th Finance Detachment, 65th Readiness Command based out of Fort Buchanan. He was working for a health insurance company and taking accounting classes at Universidad del Este Puerto Rico when his unit was mobilized for its second deployment to Iraq, the place where the younger Rivera-Rios would earn his Purple Heart.

While in country, the unit worked out of Forward Operating Base Falcon, also known as Camp Falcon, located just outside of Baghdad. About every 10 days, Rivera-Rios and some of his Soldiers traveled to the cities of Yusufiyah, Mahmudiyah, and Latifiyah. American Soldiers named the road connecting these cities The Triangle of Death because so many were killed by insurgent-planted improvised explosive devices, or the RPGs and AK-47 rounds that often followed IED attacks. The route became so bad during Rivera-Rios' tour that road convoys were halted, and supplies and personnel were moved in and out by helicopter.

And the danger didn't end for troops once they arrived at destinations. Mortar fire was always a threat, and snipers took advantage of the bases' vulnerabilities. In Yusufiyah and Mahmudiyah, the bases' perimeter walls were so short that Soldiers could see people walking on the street, Rivera-Rios said.

"Every time the helicopter dropped us off we had to run for cover because they had snipers outside the perimeter who would try and hit us," he said.

But Rivera-Rios and his unit had to complete their missions. A Soldier doesn't perform well if he or she is worried about a spouse back home who can't pay for daycare because a pay form wasn't filled out properly.

Rivera-Rios dodged the dangers along the road, but he couldn't escape the mortar fire launched inside Mahmudiyah's perimeter. One day, while eating dinner, a Katyusha rocket ripped through the facility's walls and landed about 10 feet from where Rivera-Rios was sitting. Those who could, ran from the dining facility, then raced back in to care for the wounded. Rivera-Rios was lying on the ground, knocked unconscious.

"The only thing I remember is the explosion," he recalled. "When I woke up, I was on the floor. I remember there was a lot of wood on top of me. That was a day I'll never forget. I'd been at that FOB (Forward Operating Base) so many times, and there was always something going on, but I didn't think anything would happen to me."

Rivera-Rios was lucky to survive, and he was even able—by his request—to stay with his unit until it left six months later. But he didn't go uninjured. He had two surgeries to repair a shoulder that still has a piece of shrapnel in it, and he suffered the signature wound of the Iraq War—a traumatic brain injury. Still, he knows he's lucky to be alive. He met many who never made it home.

"It's very sad," he said. "You meet people who you play sports with and share news from back home with. Then, you run into somebody else who says that person is dead."

Recovery…and on with life

When he returned from Iraq, the Army transferred Rivera-Rios to the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Knox, a location where the Army can better administer the tests, scans and evaluations recovering Soldiers need.

The WTU's mission is to return the Soldier to duty as quickly as possible. If he or she isn't able to return to duty, then the Army's focus is on returning the Soldier to civilian life in the best mental and physical health possible. Advocates from the Army Wounded Warrior Program help Soldiers leaving the service find jobs.

Advocate Joyce Garrett began working with Rivera-Rios several months out from his July 2009 departure date. She found him a job with the district, and he's been working at the federal building with the military project management, Fort Campbell section as a budget technician since Aug. 3.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gave to me," he said. "I had planned to stay in the Army for 20 years and continue to help my nation. (This program) is really great for Soldiers like us."

Olmsted a priority for Sen. McConnell

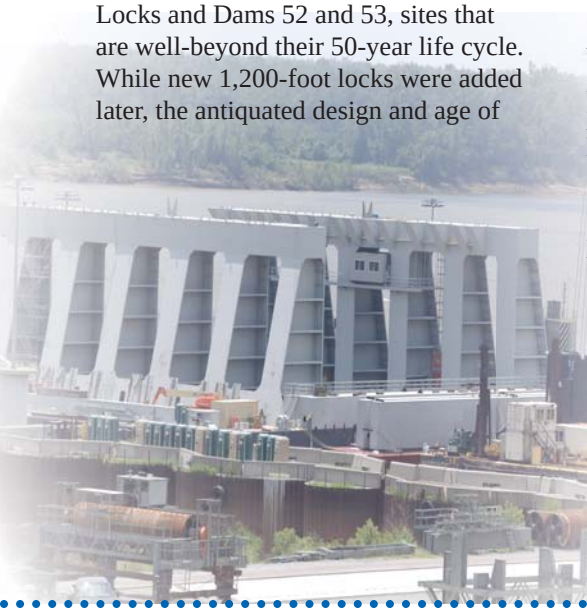
By John Neville, public affairs

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell made his first trip to the Olmsted Locks and Dam construction site Aug. 20 to hear a briefing from Louisville District leaders about the importance of annual sustained funding for the project.

The Olmsted site is located along the Ohio River shores near Olmsted, Ill., between Paducah, Ky., and Cairo, Ill., and is known as the "hub" of the inland waterways system. Barge traffic moving between the Mississippi River system and the Ohio, Tennessee, and Cumberland rivers must pass through this stretch of river. More tonnage passes through this point than any other place in America's inland navigation system.

"There is no more important project in the country, in terms of cost-benefit ratio," McConnell said. "The challenge for me and other members of Congress who are interested in this, is to keep the funding going. To the extent that you can't get the money on an annual basis, it delays the project and ends up costing more. So, our goal is to meet the annual challenges to keep the project on schedule as best as possible. I and others in Congress are going to do everything we can to keep this project on schedule."

Ninety million tons of goods pass through Lock and Dam 52, and 80 million tons pass through Lock and Dam 53 annually. Olmsted will replace the 1920s-era Locks and Dams 52 and 53, sites that are well-beyond their 50-year life cycle. While new 1,200-foot locks were added later, the antiquated design and age of these structures make it impossible to meet current traffic demands without significant delays.



John Neville

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky talks with Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry and Olmsted acting Deputy Chief of Construction Richard Schipp during the senator's Aug. 20 visit.

The district conducted condition surveys on its locks and dams that measured the risks and consequences of lock and dam failure within the entire inland waterways locks and dams systems. Based on the Corps' analysis, a shutdown of 52 or 53 would result in major economic losses for the nation, according to District Deputy Engineer David Dale.

"Fifty-two and 53 are high risk," Dale explained to McConnell. "That means there is a high likelihood that they could impact the system's operation. A critical piece of equipment could fail and prevent locking, and that could shut the river down. When we look at the system, we determine that Olmsted is a very critical piece of the system, both from the benefits generated and from the risk of not being able to provide navigational transportation services to the nation."

Following the briefing, district leaders led McConnell on a site tour where he was able to see the enormity and complexity of the project firsthand. The tour stopped at the 5,100-ton capacity gantry crane (the largest of its kind in the world) that is required to carry the massive concrete shells from the precast yard to the skidway that leads into the water.

"The senator has been a strong advocate of the navigation industry and great friend and supporter of the inland waterways system and the Corps," Landry said.

Following the presentation, McConnell spoke to the press about the importance of the Olmsted project and how he plans to support its completion. McConnell's position as senate minority leader and representative for the Commonwealth can significantly influence Olmsted funding.

McConnell also took a moment during his press address to recall one of the Corps' most famous engineers, Gen. Robert E. Lee, and comment on the advances in engineering since the Civil War era.

"I wonder what he would think if he were alive today and able to see the technology in this day and age," he said. "These folks are using the most modern technology around, and it's fascinating to hear them describe it and witness the genuine excitement they have to accomplish something of this magnitude."

Historical WWII ship moves through Louisville District locks

By Katie Newton, public affairs

The historical USS LST 325 (Landing Ship Tank) made its way through several Ohio River locks in August on its way to Jeffersonville, Ind.

The LST, permanently stationed in Evansville, Ind., is one of only two World War II LST's to be preserved in the United States. The ship was commissioned in 1943, and though it supported many significant operations, it was most notably remembered for invading the shores of Normandy.

On Aug. 20, the historic ship moved through McAlpine Locks and Dam and arrived in Jeffersonville, Ind., for a nine-day stay where the public could tour the ship.

Tre Barron

At left, the LST makes its way through the Newburgh Locks and Dam on Aug. 19.

Second stimulus fund contract awarded for Markland Locks

By Carol Labashosky, public affairs

An American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) contract for $1.7 million was awarded for the Markland navigation lock miter gate assembly pier. The locks are in Warsaw, Ky., on the Ohio River.

The contract was awarded July 20 to HTA Enterprises, Inc., of Vine Grove, Ky. The contract is 100 percent small business. Work for this contract consists of constructing a pier on the land-side wall of the 600-foot auxiliary lock. The pier is made of reinforced concrete with an interior corridor. The pier will be constructed on top of an existing lock wall monolith. Work will also include demolition of existing observation platform stairs and fencing.

Demolition work in preparation for construction of the miter gate assembly pier has begun, and is being funded by ARRA funds.

The rehabilitation of the Markland locks and construction of the miter gate assembly pier is critical for keeping commerce moving throughout the Ohio River Basin and beyond. Waterways transportation of coal and steel, for example, saves money versus overland shipping, and is a safe and more environmentally-friendly mode of transport.

This project is one of several large-scale rehabilitation projects that are being undertaken by the Army Corps of Engineers on the Ohio River to keep goods moving throughout the system which ultimately will save taxpayers money.

An ARRA contract for $1.5 million to fund fabrication of a custom "portable" milling machine with hardware was awarded July 29.

Corps evaluates Evansville levee system

By Carol Labashosky, public affairs

Carol Labashosky

During five days in September, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District's levee safety team crawled like ants all over 18.25 miles of levee and floodwall in Evansville, Ind., as part of this city's ongoing levee evaluation for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance program.

The Corps assembled engineering teams in disciplines of geotechnical; structural; mechanical; electrical; and hydrology and hydraulics. Teams included 27 individuals to inspect both rural and inner city segments of the flood protection project, including 100 gates and 20 pumping stations. The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) component of the inspection was also performed where inspectors walk along the levee annotating and identifying conditions of the components of the project in an electronic GIS "notebook."

GIS specialist Paul Deatrick, geologist Jacob Nienaber and levee inspector Chris Alvey performed the GIS inspections.

At the Evansville First Avenue Pumping Station, large submersible pumps were inspected by mechanical engineers Mark Robertson, Brian Smith, Vu Nguyen, and electrical engineers John Dobson and Jeff Timbas. Mike Herke of the Evansville Levee Authority provided assistance lowering Corps inspectors into the sump area where the pumps are located. Robertson has gained notoriety of sorts earning the title, "pump expert" by his comrades, not only because he helps other districts build pumping stations, but his car license plate bears the same title.

The Louisville District can perform evaluations as part of the certification process if the local sponsor – in this case the Evansville Levee Authority – makes the request and obtains more than 10 percent or more of the total funds required from another federal agency. The local sponsor must pay for the remaining portion – 90 percent or less – for the inspection. The 10 percent of federal funding came from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Evansville. It cost $408,000 to complete the certification evaluation for this project.

Often times levee sponsors have a difficult time locating an architectural engineering firm who will perform levee evaluations for certifications, according to Dan Frank, Louisville District levee safety program manager. "They don't want the responsibility or liability of signing on the dotted line," he said. "We find this happens quite a bit, especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina."

The Louisville District has already performed several levee inspections as part of the certification process on other projects and has at least two more to accomplish. "It takes a lot of the district's resources and people to perform the certification evaluations; however, our people gain firsthand knowledge of our levee projects and the requirements necessary for certification for accreditation," Frank said. "They see the whole picture."

Barry Schueler, civil works project manager, said it makes sense for the Corps to perform this levee inspection. "The Corps has the institutional knowledge, and I think it's great the Corps is doing it," he said.

Levees across America need certification for FEMA to accredit them on new digital flood insurance rate maps as providing protection. This ultimately may impact citizens being required to purchase flood insurance.

Depending on the inspection findings, the Evansville levee certification evaluation could potentially allow the local sponsor to meet the requirements necessary for accreditation. By FEMA regulations, levee systems should provide protection from an annual one percent flood chance, referred to as the 100-year level. A 100-year water level is a statistical event that has a one percent chance of occurring each year at a given location. The Evansville levee, as well as most projects in the district, received a minimally acceptable rating in the 2009 inspection.

The Corps of Engineers built the original levee system after the Flood Control Act of 1937, and pumping stations were added beginning in 1964 and continuing through 1994.

Carol Labashosky

Electical engineers John Dobson (left) and Jeff Timbas (right) take electrical readings at Diamond Avenue pump station at the Evansville, Ind. local flood protection project.

(Above left) Mechanical engineers Vu Nguyen (left) and Brian Smith (right) use a mirror to inspect a pump impeller for pitting, wear and corrosion.

Corps mission vital to corn, soy farmers

By John Neville, public affairs

Jack Sweeney

Louisville District Chief of Planning Sharon Bond explains the Ohio River Basin Comprehensive Study.

What's the connection between farming and the Corps?

H2O.

Water was the subject Aug. 31 when Indiana soybean and corn farmers boarded the Belle of Louisville for a cruise up the Ohio River. But the shores of Louisville and Jeffersonville weren't the only attractions. Representatives from the Louisville District and the corn and soybean industry briefed passengers, mostly farmers, on two of the Corps' biggest missions—to ensure the Ohio River remains navigable for the millions of tons of soybeans and corn that move up and down the river annually, and to control flooding within the Ohio River Basin.

The lock and dam systems are the key to sustaining navigable waters. Impassable waters halt barge traffic which disrupts the flow of soy products and corn to the marketplace, and that's not good for farmers. Rich McCarty of American Commercial Lines compared the consequences of inoperable locks with the effect Hurricane Katrina had on basis values.

"If a lock goes down, it's not unrealistic to think we could see similar basis effects in the short run as to what we saw in Katrina," said McCarty. "And I know none of you really enjoyed seeing dollars basis drop right as we were heading into harvest. As grain wasn't able to hit river markets, it found rail and truck markets, and so there was this domino effect. Significant amounts of farm dollars went away from the farm because there was this sudden impact to the transportation system."

Basis is the difference between the price at the local grain elevator and the price at a major market, such as Chicago. Basis values are negatively affected by higher transportation costs. Farmers earn less profit as the basis shrinks.

Many of the Corps' 20 lock and dam systems along the Ohio River need repairs, but the Corps' efforts to repair and replace aging infrastructure are limited by the amount of congressionally-appropriated money it receives. Limited funding forces the Corps to evaluate its locks and dams and decide where to direct the millions—and sometimes billions—of dollars to system repairs and replacement.

"We do invest in infrastructure, but not at the level we need to," said Deputy District Engineer David Dale. "So that forces us to go through a very systematic process and identify projects that need to be invested in now, rather than later. We try to take taxpayer dollars and put them where we get the biggest bang for our buck so that we have a reliable transportation system."

The last speaker for the morning, Louisville District Chief of Planning Sharon Bond, addressed the Ohio River Basin Comprehensive Study and how farmers can influence its direction.

The Ohio River Basin Comprehensive Reconnaissance Study is a collaborative effort between four Corps districts— Louisville, Huntington, Nashville and Pittsburgh— the 15 basin states and a multitude of stakeholders, project sponsors and the public.

The study addresses issues related to water resources management and development, flood damages, water supply, hydropower, fish and wildlife habitat, ecosystem restoration, recreation, navigation, existing flood control infrastructure, and any other issues raised by basin stakeholders and the public that relate to the basin's water resources.

And because farmers depend heavily on navigation and flood control, they are significant stakeholders.

"The reason I'm here today is to make sure you know that the study is ongoing," Bond said. "But we don't have the answers to everything. We need to find out from you what you perceive are the needs throughout the basin. Should there be a basin-wide water management plan that looks at the way we operate reservoir projects? Is there a need for infrastructure improvements? Please, let us know."

Courtesy of Department of Defense and Britannica.com

When in Rome...Sing!

By Wanda Baldwin, public affairs

Every now and then we get an opportunity to take a trip to a place previously visited only in our dreams or on the Travel Network. This rarely happens when we are young. These are the trips we take—or plan to take—when we retire, when the children are all grown, when we have the time and the money.

Courtesy of Kelsey Edelen

Kelsey Edelen visits Florence, Italy, during her trip with the University of Kentucky Women's Choir.

Kelsey Edelen, stepped out of her dreams and into reality this summer. Edelen is the daughter of Gerard Edelen, chief, Army and Air Force section in engineering division. She is a junior at the University of Kentucky, majoring in music education. This is Edelen's second year working for the Corps in military branch environmental section. She performs administrative support under Michael Saffran, section chief.

Edelen is a soprano with the University of Kentucky Women's Choir, and was presented with her dream of a lifetime through her choral director. She and 69 other choir members decided to participate in a tour of Italy, including Rome, Venice, Florence and other cities. For two weeks in June the choir traveled throughout Italy, performed several concerts and soaked up the local culture.

"It was an opportunity for us to perform music in the place where it was written to be performed," Edelen said.

She was amazed that even the people who couldn't understand English understood the message of the music and the emotion behind it.

The choir performed many sacred pieces alone and with other choirs. The choir also performed at the Vatican before tourists and people attending mass. Edelen was amazed at how the people received their performances.

"Some of the townspeople couldn't understand English," but she found true what they say about music–"Music is the international language."

Edelen's 12-day trip was full of delightful sights and sounds of Italian culture. She also sings with the University of Kentucky Chorale, a mixed choir. When asked if this choir plans to travel to exotic locales as well, Edelen said in 2010 they plan another European trip.

And yes, she plans to be there.

Good hygiene practices for flu season

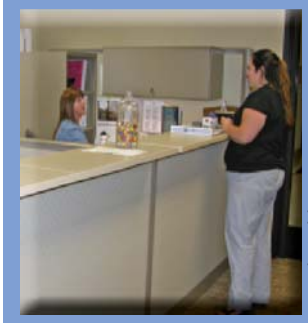
Illnesses, like the flu (influenza) and colds, are caused by viruses. Flu and cold viruses spread from person to person by way of coughing, sneezing or simply talking.

Take these everyday actions to stay healthy:

- Handwashing is the first line of prevention in the spread of germs.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze, after using the restroom, and before preparing food, eating, or smoking. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze; or cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Avoid close contact with people who aren't feeling well.
- Clean common or high-use surfaces with a disinfectant as the virus may survive on environmental surfaces and can infect a person for up to 2-8 hours after being deposited on the surface.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, stay home. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) Keep away from others as much as possible to keep from making others sick.
- Be considerate of those around you. Flush the toilet after using, discard all contaminated tissue, and clean up after yourself to help decrease the spread of disease.

New look for Corps offices

By Wanda Baldwin, public affairs



Wanda Baldwin

It's happening! The Corps Extreme Makeover is underway. Engineering division's environmental branch is the first Corps office in the Mazzoli Federal Building to incorporate the new office design. In mid-August the branch occupied the offices on the 3rd floor which formally housed the IRS taxpayer assistance office and one of the building's break rooms. The office showcases the image that was created by the district's corporate image board. It is the first to be redesigned according to the district's corporate image. The new design affords more efficient use of space, and blends new furniture and workstations to create a more professional look for the district. As offices are recarpeted and repainted, they will resemble the design and layout of the environmental branch. This is the culmination of an idea originated by Col. Jeffrey Ogden in August 2006. He wanted the Corps to present a more uniform and professional image to its customers and the public.

Office of counsel employees recognized with honorary award

By Amanda Deane, public affairs

"Great organizations set standards in their professions. Clearly the Louisville District Office of Counsel is doing just that," said Col. Keith Landry.

On July 16, Allen Sebastian, Dale Holmes, Janice Lengel and Qiana Davis of the Louisville District were presented with the Chief Counsel Honorary Award.

For their outstanding service to the nation in support of overseas contingency operations, Sebastian and Holmes received a team award for excellence in client care. Davis and Lengel received the award for their excellence in client care and legal services for outstanding service to the nation in support of overseas contingency operations.

Holmes was, "surprised and pleased to be recognized," he said after receiving his award.

Holmes, originally from Kansas City, Mo., holds a Doctorate Law degree and a Master of Laws (LOM) degree from George Washington University. He has been with the Corps for 29 years, and this was his third honorary chief counsel award. The award was given to recognize his first tour in Afghanistan which lasted eight and a half months. He returned to Afghanistan with his wife, Teresa, for six to seven more months.

"I would encourage others to consider deploying; it's a very rewarding experience, personally and professionally," said Holmes.

Fours years ago, Assistant District Counsel Qiana Davis began working for the Corps in the office of counsel. Originally from New York City, Davis also received the award for her service in Iraq from March to December 2008.

"I really enjoyed my time over there. I absolutely loved it. I will definitely do another tour," said Davis.

Davis' ten months in Iraq as district counsel earned her the award. She was responsible for the Northern District of Iraq, dealing with awards and contracts surrounding labor issues, fiscal law and ethics questions.

"I was very honored. You work hard when you're in Iraq; you don't do it for the recognition, but it's nice to be recognized for your hard work and efforts," Davis said.

Safety Spot

Never give safety a day off

Morning is a good time to cast out a line on Caesar Creek Lake.

Photo of the Week taken by Jim Pisarowicz

September is National Preparedness Month

By Sarah Mattingly, public affairs

Terrorist attacks, ice storms, hurricanes, disease pandemics… The list of possible catastrophes continues, but no matter what type of disaster might strike, chances for survival are best when citizens are well-prepared. For this reason, federal government agencies are participating in a month-long initiative to encourage Americans to prepare for the unexpected. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has launched a Web site that lays out the basic steps for emergency preparation. First, assemble a kit of emergency supplies. Then, develop a plan for what you and your family will do and how you will communicate after a disaster. Finally, be informed about potential threats and the best way to respond to different types of emergencies.

Recommended supplies in a basic survival kit

- Water: One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food: At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle, to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps

Visit www.ready.gov for more tips on how to stay safe and for a list of available local resources.

Greer and Murphy recognized for safety efforts

By Katie Newton, public affairs

Two resource management employees, Sharon Greer and Donna F. Murphy, were recognized Aug. 11 with Louisville District Safety Coins for putting safety first in their office.

The coins were presented by Lt. Col. Stephen Bales on behalf of Col. Landry to commend the women for being safety-conscious.

Greer received the coin for her work as secretary on the newly developed Collateral Duty Safety Officer Steering Committee and for serving as the CDSO for the Resource Management Office.

Lt. Col. Stephen Bales presents resource management employees Sharon Greer (left) and Donna F. Murphy (right) with district safety coins for their efforts to keep their office and fellow employees

"She really has a safety culture focus," said Bales.

Greer used the opportunity to remind resource management employees that, "We are responsible to some degree for our own safety."

Murphy was recognized for her recent work to prevent accidents from occurring in the resource management office. Not too long ago, Murphy spotted a broken filing cabinet that could be a potential danger. With the safety of her colleagues in mind, Murphy made a sign and hung it on the cabinet to prevent employees from getting hurt.

Lt. Col. Bales explained to employees that Murphy's actions exemplify what we should all do each and every day, "Take action yourself," he said.

Murphy used near-miss stories from her past to teach lessons to fellow employees. For example, be cautious and watch ties and scarves when bending down around paper shredders.

These recognitions show that both Murphy and Greer live up to the Corps' philosophy that everybody is a safety officer.

Real estate division connects largest intermodal in North America

By John Neville, Public Affairs

It's a win-win situation, and the Louisville District helped make it happen.

The Army, city of Joliet, Ill., and private developer CenterPoint Properties, Inc., will all benefit from the sale of easements of approximately 115 acres of government-owned property near Chicago. This property will be used to form the largest intermodal railroad port in North America.

CenterPoint purchased 2,200 acres in Will County in 2003 and built its first intermodal—a transportation point where goods are transferred from train to truck, or truck to train, for shipment to national and international destinations. The venture has been so successful that CenterPoint decided there was room for more growth, so it decided to build a 3,600-acre intermodal in the same county.

But first, CenterPoint needed to purchase the easements—the right to use property owned by another party—for a road and railroad line that will connect the two facilities to each other and to other railroads in the area. CenterPoint will also build a road on the property to efficiently access the area.

The Army Reserve Command uses and controls the property—the Joliet Training Area (JTA)—where military personnel and civilian law enforcement conduct training exercises. CenterPoint approached JTA's 88th Regional Support Command's leadership who obtained necessary approvals and then contacted the Louisville District to handle the transaction.

The first district team to get involved was the real estate office, which acquires, manages, and disposes of property for the Department of the Army. In this case, district real estate office estimator for this purchase, Greg Carnes, needed to figure out how much the property was worth. Part of that calculation involved figuring out the land's best use.

"We determine what the highest and best use of the land is," said Carnes. "It involves gathering a huge amount of data, to include an analysis for what surrounding land is used. By law, we have to get fair market value from whoever is going to use the land."

Bob Krupp

Corps' Chief of Real Estate Scott Whiteford and 88th Regional Support Command Deputy Commander Brig. Gen. Frank Cipolla sign their names into concrete blocks during the Union Pacific Joliet Intermodal Terminal and CenterPoint Intermodal Center groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 3 in Joliet, Ill. CenterPoint purchased easements from the U.S. Government, and the Louisville District's real estate office handled the negotiations.

Other efforts, according to district Real Estate Military Branch Chief Bob Krupp, included intensive administrative and coordination efforts among several functional organizations that included appraisal and reviews, easement language and negotiations, escrow and trust agreements, Title 10 documentation, assignment and assumption agreements, legal reviews, and a final closing and signature ceremony.

"All that team work is paying off for the Army and the surrounding area," said Krupp who also acknowledged that the professional and dedicated service by the district's Frank Schmitt (project officer) and Steve Allison (counsel) were instrumental in finalizing the action."

The Army Reserve plans to use funds from the $8.7 million sale to expand and improve JTA so that it is a more relevant training facility for today's Army, as well as local, state and federal law enforcement groups. Specifically, most of the funds will be used to construct a state-of-the-art maintenance facility that will ensure the Army's equipment is constantly ready for training and deployments.

The project will inject millions of dollars to the city of Joliet and the surrounding area over the lifetime of the easements' use. The intermodal is also projected to produce more than 15,000 rail-related jobs that will increase and diversify the tax base.

Lisa Fleming selected for regional integration team

By Wanda Baldwin, public affairs

Wanda Baldwin

Lisa Fleming, construction division, was selected as the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division regional integration team endowed chair.

Have you ever wondered how the Corps' civil works projects are authorized, approved and funded?

Lisa Fleming knows all about it. Fleming, chief of construction division's contract administration/negotiation and analysis sections, has been selected as the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division's regional integration team (RIT) endowed chair, in a 120-day detail assignment at Corps headquarters which begins in late September. The detail is rotational among all the districts in the division. Fleming will get the opportunity to see how the process is executed from the headquarters level.

"It will be interesting to see the birth and development of a civil works project," Fleming said.

Fleming has what it takes to be successful in the position. She is both a licensed professional engineer and a licensed attorney. When she gets to Washington D.C., Fleming will have an arsenal of experience on hand. It includes stints as a structural and project engineer as well as a project manager in several of the district's divisions. Fleming has also served as an engineer ambassador through the National Society of Professional Engineers which entailed meeting with members of Congress and their staffs to discuss issues of importance to federal engineers.

Joanne Milo, deputy chief of planning programs and project management division, who announced her selection, said, "We know she will be extremely successful in this new endeavor and a tremendous asset to the team."

The current RIT chair, Amy Sharp, was also pleased with Fleming's selection.

"I think it's been excellent," she said of the program's success. "This is a great assignment and a great opportunity."

Fleming can't wait to start.

"I am excited about it. I really am."

Falls City Engineer: a history

By John Neville, public affairs

The first Falls City Engineer went to print in October 1977, but the publication wasn't the district's first.

The Louisville District Information Bulletin, first printed on 8 x 10.5 paper in 1969, housed various bits of information, ranging from short summaries of work performed by Corps offices for that month, to recollections from the first district employees on the ground at the flood of 1977 in Johnstown, Pa. Awards, birthdays, safety messages, pictures and financial advice also filled the pages.

In July of 1977, the public affairs office decided to hold a district-wide contest to determine the name of what would become the Falls City Engineer. The following paragraph was taken directly from the contest announcement that ran in the issue.

"The contest to name the new district newspaper yielded some 175 entries, some of which suggested a name and some of which also suggested a concept that might guide the newspaper. The public affairs office staff's first choice was Kaleidoscope primarily because it suggested the changing mission of the Corps' dedication to reflecting the wants and needs of the American people. One of the finalists among the names was "The Falls City Engineer," which was appropriate because of the uniqueness of Louisville's location at the Falls of the Ohio."

District Engineer Col. Thomas Nack turned down "Kaleidoscope" as a name, but supported it as a concept. He picked the "Falls City Engineer" as the name. Rosie Mandia of the planning division was awarded a framed color photograph of the Belle of Louisville for suggesting "Kaleidoscope."

Like other Department of Defense publications, "The Falls City Engineer's" look has evolved to reflect improvements in newspaper (newsletter) production. A newspaper's design—organization of content, headline and photo placement, font, use of art, etc., is critical to attracting and holding readers' interest.

By 1984, picture reproduction capabilities at the Corps' printing office improved enough that the public affairs office began enlarging photos and running them on the front page, much like a magazine format.

In 1986, the staff decided to enlarge the Falls City Engineer from 8 x 10.5 pages to tabloid-sized sheets that measured 11 x 14. The tabloid format ran for several years until the public affairs office decided to move back to the smaller version.

In September 1997, the final "The Falls City Engineer" print-only version ran, but district news continued in digital format on the Corps' intranet. However, the stories, photos, and other information weren't compiled in an online newsletter. Instead, they were posted to the "What's News at a Glance" page.

In July, the public affairs office re-introduced "The Falls City Engineer" in a digital format that is now linked on the Corps' intranet homepage.

US Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville District
Leaders In Customer Care

Falls City Engineer

NEW DISTRICT ENGINEER ASSIGNED

COLONEL ROBERT L. OLIVER

Louisville District Participates in Black Achievers Program

The tabloid format of "The Falls City Engineer" from April 1986.

Raising wicket dam soon to be a 'lost art'

By Katie Newton, public affairs

It's a dangerous job, but someone has to do it. Manually raising the antiquated wicket dam at Lock 52 may seem like a simple task, but the brave crew that works inches away from the rushing water of the Ohio River to complete the complex, trial-and-error process might disagree.

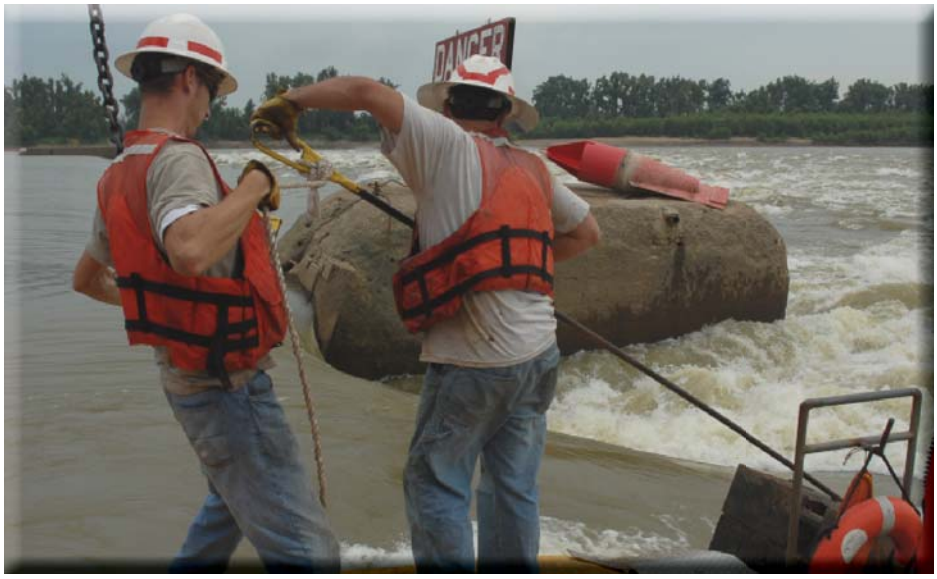
Raising the dam is an intricate process. To lift the wickets, crew members use long crochet-like hooks, or wicket hooks, to grab the wicket eye and pull it out of the water. One of the many challenges, though, is fighting against the powerful current of the Ohio River.

"I don't care how tough or burly you think you might be, you're no match for the strength of the Ohio River current when you're trying to blindly probe around in 16 feet of rushing water with a 23-foot steel rod and mate the hook-end with the wicket eye," said lock and dam operator Marshall Hunerkoch. "It takes a lot more finesse and technique to find the mark than it does muscle."

Lock 52 and Lock 53, the oldest dams on the Ohio River were completed in 1929, and the process of raising their dams is quite different than that at modern facilities like Smithland and McAlpine.

Katie Newton

Jesse Hall and Mike Burton thread the wicket hook which connects the crane and the wicket so it can be pulled up.



Katie Newton

A wicket is raised from the powerful Ohio River. The wicket dam at Lock 52 was manually raised during the second week of August due to low water.

"It takes a lot of man power and man hours," said lockmaster Randy Robertson, "We're in a time warp; we're doing it the same way as in the 1920s."

The dam at 52 had to be raised during the second week of August due to low water.

"A dam raise is never the same," said Robertson, so when the crew begins, they never know just how long the process might take. There are a total of 487 wickets, but 312 of those are pass wickets that can be raised and lowered all at once. The rest have to be raised and lowered manually one at a time.

"It normally takes 12-16 hours, but it has been even 30 hours non-stop," said Robertson. This happens at any time during the day or night, and the crew doesn't leave until the job is complete.

"We don't have a lot of free nights and weekends," joked work leader Jeff Kelly.

The operation:

The 15-member crew boards the LD 559 maneuver boat, a boat specially designed for lifting the dam. The boat is connected to the lock wall by a sturdy stern wire controlled by three operators: Susan Duncan, Dennis Burnett and Jake Windburn. They keep the boat and its crew from being swept over the dam and allow the boat to inch on to the next wicket. Duncan, the only woman on the boat, says sometimes it is difficult to only move the boat an inch or two. "They usually want it right on the money," she joked, "I shake my fist at them a lot." Duncan appreciates her co-workers and feels that it is very important for everyone on the shift to work well together.

Lever rack operator Jeff Kelly controls foot pedals for the steam-powered friction crane that hooks to the rods and lifts the wickets out of the water.

"Operating this crane with the lever and brake setup is similar to using a treadmill or an elliptical machine, and you definitely feel like you have had a workout after a long day of operating it," said Kelly.

Together, the crew operates much like a well-oiled machine.

"We have divers, welders, crane operators, but everybody just kind of jumps back and forth between jobs," said Robertson. Although, all want to get the dam raised as efficiently as possible, safety is the biggest priority for all involved.

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"The thing here is everybody watches out for everybody," said Robertson.

During the most recent dam raising the water was falling two-tenths of an inch every hour, requiring crew members to race against time.

"It gets harder because the pressure of the water racing over the dam increases," said Robertson.

"That last wicket was a real sticky wicket," said Hunerkoch. "We all took our turn and fought with it for a long time, trying to convince a hook rod to penetrate the torrential current and hook the eye so we could raise it and head home, but the river was just too powerful."

Even under tough circumstances, "We've never failed to get it done," said Hunerkoch. "That's what I take a lot of pride in."

The next step: Diving

After the dam is successfully raised, divers must go down to assess and repair the weak areas on the worn-out wickets. There are only four trained divers at Lock 52: Randy Robertson, Jimmy Nix, Jesse Hall and Luther Helland. The divers train with their eyes closed to get used to the shapes so they can make the repairs or install new wickets in the darkness underwater.

"It's like a jigsaw puzzle," said Robertson.

The average life of a wicket is 15-20 years. Typically, about 20 new wickets are replaced each year, but last year 63 wickets were replaced.

Following the completion of Olmsted Locks and Dam in 2016, Locks 52 and 53 will be dismantled and the finely-tuned techniques will no longer be needed.

The dam raising at these locks will soon be a "lost art," said Hunerkoch "There aren't too many people in the world who can say they've done this."

Lock 52 facts

- The dam is comprised of four different dam systems including: 1,248 feet of pass wickets, 540 feet of weir wickets, 160 feet of bebout wickets, and three bear traps.
- More tonnage passes through Lock 52 than any other lock in the country.

Contract for Port Oliver Recreation Area work is awarded

By Carol Labashosky, public affairs

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at Barren River Lake near Glasgow, Ky., announced that a contract was awarded Aug. 31 to continue work on the Port Oliver Recreation Area near Barren River Dam. This second phase of work was made possible by a congressional appropriation of $2 million in the fiscal year 2009 federal budget. However, the addition of $1.4 million in American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding will allow the Corps to complete final construction of this recreation area in Allen County.

The $3.3 million contract was awarded to Howard W. Pence, Inc., of Elizabethtown, Ky., and includes work for extension of the boat ramp to enable boaters to launch year round, a weigh-in area, shelter, boardwalks along the shoreline, an amphitheater, playground and picnic area, various accessible sidewalks and restroom facilities.

"With the additions, Port Oliver will be a unique and even a 'one-of-a-kind' recreation area. It will be completely handicap-accessible," said Carlos Lopez, Barren River Lake park manager. "The whole area including the boardwalk–which will go around most of the perimeter of the shoreline–is accessible to those with mobility impairments."

Nancy Henning

Sen. Mitch McConnell, who worked to secure $2 million in the FY09 Energy and Water Appropriation for the project, said he was pleased with this most recent announcement. "This is great news, and I look forward to the completion of this project," McConnell said. "This will be a unique facility and will satisfy the demand for a recreation spot in the area."

The contractor will mobilize in several weeks with construction beginning in October, weather permitting. The project will take approximately 8-10 months to complete.

The Port Oliver Recreation Area is Barren River Lake's newest area which includes facilities to support fishing, boating, day use and cultural activities such as concerts, theatrical productions and other activities.

Duties in Iraq earn Farkus top honors

"Steve brought a combination of talents to the table..."

-Planning, Programs, and Project Management Deputy Chief Joanne Milo

Maj. David Fedroff

Louisville District project manager Steve Farkus stands in a guard tower in Nasiriyah, Iraq, just a few feet from the Iranian border. Farkus returned to Louisville after a 12-month tour in Iraq.

By John Neville, public affairs

Out of the 120-degree heat and dust.

On July 8, after a year in Iraq, Louisville District Project Manager Steve Farkus walked past airport security to a terminal full of friends and family at Louisville International Airport.

"It's fantastic to be back," he said. "When you're gone a year, it's funny the things you don't remember, the small details of your life that you have tucked away for a year. I forgot that I could set the car alarm by pressing a button on the door handle."

Corps employees deployed for 12 months can take up to three rest and relaxation breaks. Farkus decided to meet his wife at two neutral locations on different ends of the planet instead of making the trip all the way back home.

"We went to Cancún and Paris because I couldn't see myself in my living room and having to leave that environment to go again," he said. "Psychologically, it would've been too tough."

Farkus joined the Corps in 1992 after spending nine years as an engineer officer in the Army. The Hazleton, Pa., native worked as a structural designer for several years, contributing his skills to the recently completed 1,200-foot lock and visitors center at the McAlpine Locks and Dam site, as well as the cofferdam at the Olmsted Locks and Dam site. Farkus also served 12 months in Afghanistan beginning in January 2005.

Farkus obtained his professional engineer license in 1995 which, he says, was a boost for his career and a stepping stone for him toward his vocation—managing projects for the Corps. But first, Farkus left the design side of the district's engineering division to work in the architect-engineer management branch—the team of professionals who technically help administer and direct design firms under contract with the government.

"Leading the effort in getting a design or a request for a proposal to the project delivery team (PDT)" he said. "I really loved it…to this day that is a fantastic group," he said. "The responsibilities associated with leading the whole PDT as project manager and leading the whole team was a logical transition (from project engineer)."

The duties of project managers, Farkus explained, cut across the Corps' diverse workforce. They are the advocates for the customer and work out all issues relating to schedule, scope and budget, and they work with every division within the agency. The project manager is the center of gravity for the project.

"I feel like I'm a resource to everyone," he said. "The project manager is the resource to fall back on. Do PDT members need more money, people, time? What do PDT members need to accomplish the task at hand? One person in the contracting division might have 12 projects competing for the time and resources. How does my project get done in the scheme of the whole district, because the customer wants them all done? We shouldn't plan on meeting customer standards. We work to exceed expectations, and that's not easy."

Sometimes, getting the job done involves confrontation, but, Farkus said, that's not a bad thing, at least not for the former college basketball referee. It's just part of the game.

"I don't mind confrontation," he said. "It, in itself, is a good thing. Sometimes you have to look somebody in the eye and tell them something they might not want to hear. It was that way on the court and sometimes it's that way in the PDT."

Refereeing has also helped Farkus communicate in a "high stress" environment, a skill he said helps in any business.

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"Unlike at the high school level, college coaches know the rules," he recalled. "When that coach is yelling to be heard over the crowd, I had to listen to them and still call the game. You can't block them out. They might be telling me something I need to know, like their player is hurt or they want a time out."

The skills he has developed over the years working for the Corps, while a commissioned officer in the Army, as well as his time on the hardwood have paid off for Farkus. The Corps officially named him 2009 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager of the Year during a ceremony at the Senior Leader's Summer Conference held in Orlando, Fla., recently.

Farkus managed more than $170 million in military construction (MILCON) projects while assigned to the Gulf Region South District, headquartered at Contingency Operating Base Adder near Nasiriyah, Iraq. Some of the projects included massive airfield parking, an air traffic control tower, waste-water treatment plants, and a 60,000-square foot dining facility.

Farkus said he wouldn't have been successful if it weren't for the work of his colleagues, as well as those who served in his slot before he arrived in Iraq.

"Greg Werncke, Larry Kelly and Greg Croon, (all from the Louisville District) those individuals came over and served in the GRS Construction Division working on MILCON projects in key positions over there," he said. "Those are the kinds of examples of the people that added to the huge success in our projects. I don't look at this [award] as all about me. There are so many more people that are more experienced than I am throughout the Corps. There are project managers that have forgotten more than I'll ever know. This award is very humbling."

Farkus worked for Joanne Milo—Louisville District's current program manager supervisor and deputy chief for planning, programs and project management—for several months while he served in Iraq. Milo was part of the submission team that nominated Farkus for the award.

"We work to exceed expectations, and that's not easy."

-Steve Farkus, project manager

"Steve brought a combination of talents to the table—experience, self-reliance, confidence, customer-focus, and the expeditionary mindset and eagerness it takes to be effective," she said. "His enthusiasm, sense of humor, and high-energy would transcend the day to day struggles and challenges of executing work in a combat zone under much less than ideal circumstances. Whether he is located in a district office, on a military installation, or in a combat zone, he does what it takes to achieve outstanding success."

Farkus' wife Marcella Denton who works in operations division, said she's happy for her husband's safe return.

"It was a challenging year for both of us," Denton said. "I am very grateful that Steve is safely back home. I have a great deal of respect for the spouses of deployees with young children—I just don't see how they do it."

Alicia Embrey

Steve Farkus (center) and the rest of the project delivery team conduct an on-site briefing with the Gulf Region South (GRS) leadership.

Corps and environmental agencies meet at Green River

By John Neville, public affairs

They lie still at the bottom of the river for decades, housed inside two shells. Yet for all their lack of movement, mussels perform one of Mother Nature's most important duties—they clean the river.

But these environmental gems and the water they call home are delicate, and they need to be protected. That's why the Louisville District and the Kentucky Nature Conservancy hosted federal, state and non-governmental partners at Green River and Mammoth Cave to discuss on-going efforts to protect the mussels and preserve one of the most biologically diverse water systems in the country.

"The Corps is committed to being a responsible steward for the nation's resources and helping to minimize negative environmental impacts," said Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry. "Two of the four principles of the good-to-great philosophy are setting standards for your organization and making a unique and positive contribution to your nation. Clearly, the Nature Conservancy and the Louisville District are doing that."

Several years ago, the Corps and the conservancy began the Sustainable Rivers Project, a pilot program that seeks to find the most environmentally friendly way to operate the Green River's lock and dam systems that are crucial to flood control and economic development.

But locks and dams do—inescapably—disrupt the natural flow of water, and it's these changes that can negatively affect the river's ecosystem. Green River mussel species thrive in shallow, low-flowing sections of the water. Dams pool water, and, when water is eventually released, it's often done so at a very high rate.

John Neville

Native grasses have nearly covered the rocks on the Corps-built levee along a section of the Green River.

But the Corps' lake dam operators on Green River use more controlled methods of release, and they're doing everything they can to mimic the river's historic, natural flow of water. Because pooled deeper water is cooler than flowing shallow water, the new methods prevent the sudden cold-water assaults that can damage mussel environments. The controlled releases have also nearly eliminated the backflow of water into nearby cave systems that can disrupt the aquatic life within the cave.

Mussel reproduction

A healthy mussel population depends on several variables, and the river's fish population might be the most critical. Once the female mussel's eggs have been fertilized and then hatch into larvae, it's time for the mussel to go fishing for a host, and no ordinary fish will do. Each species of mussel requires its own specific species of fish.

Somehow, the mussel can sense when her special fish is nearby. When the female senses the right fish, she attracts the fish to approach even closer. Some mussels have what resembles a worm attached to their shell. The mussel baits the fish with the "worm" and when the future host approaches, the mussel releases the larvae into the water around the fish. The larvae attach to the fish's gills and feed on tissue for up to seven months before dropping to the ground. Immediately, the juvenile mussels begin their work.

"It's an elaborate life cycle," said Kendall Moles, a researcher at Tennessee Tech University. "It just takes one little thing to interrupt that."

How do they keep the river clean?

The filtering is really a result of mussel diet. They use a siphon to pump in the water that is full of mussel food—organic matter and small microscopic organisms—as well as water-clouding particulates. The mussels extract their food from the water then release it back into the river.

John Neville

Louisville District Executive Liaison Officer Susan Toutant drops her canoe in the water at Green River Aug. 3. Toutant, Louisville District Commander Col. Keith Landry, several other Corps employees and the Kentucky Nature Conservancy hosted federal, state and non-governmental employees at Green River and Mammoth Cave to discuss the Sustainable Rivers Project. The project is a partnership that seeks to preserve and improve environmental conditions on the river.

"I've seen demonstrations where they had some muscles in a water tank," recalled Michael Floyd of the Fish and Wildlife office in Frankfort, Ky. "Then, they poured in turbid water and in just a short time, the water was clear again."

This feeding process is affected by the unnatural flow of water, and while the Corps and conservancy's partnership has made progress in returning Green River closer to its natural flow, mussel populations in the immediate vicinity of the dam are still low. But the partnership is committed to finding out why, as well as to discovering other ways to sustain the diversity of the Green River.

"What I want to do in partnering with your organization is find the next big thing," Landry said. "Let's do it. I'm committed to working with you all to figure it out."

New faces and fond farewells

New July and August employees

Don Abdon
Construction Control Rep.
Wright-Patterson AFB

Jason Anderson
Construction Control Rep.
Wright-Patterson AFB

Tarrah Beavin
Law Clerk
Office of Counsel

Nicholas Beckmann
Civil Engineer
Engineering Division

Michael Brooks
Engineering Technician
Construction Division

Mason Carter
Civil Engineering Technician
Fort Knox

Mike Dill
Human Resources Specialist
CPAC

Jenn Domashevich
Public Affairs Specialist
Public Affairs Office

The oath of office

I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; That I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; And that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

Corey Griffo
Program & Budget Analyst
Resource Management

David Hawkins
Project Manager
Planning, Programs, and Project Management

Steven Heng
Mechanical Engineer
Wright-Patterson AFB

Lisa Hentrup
Budget Technician
Planning, Programs, and Project Management

Braden Hurley
Project Manager
Planning, Programs, and Project Management

Mary Juras
Accountant
Resource Management

Kyle Lewis
Law Clerk
Office of Counsel

Richard Manley
Interior Designer
Engineering Division

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New faces and fond farewells continued from Page 21

Landon Marston
Civil Engineer
Engineering Division

Kevin Mieczkowski
Civil Engineer
Engineering Division

Laura Nation
Mechanical Engineer
Construction Division

William Norton Jr.
Mechanical Engineer
Engineering Division

Diane Perkins
Landscape Architect
Planning, Programs, and Project Management

Courtney Perry
Contract Specialist
Contracting Division

Chris Phillips
Project Engineer
Construction DIvision

Luis Rivera-Rios
Budget Technician
Planning, Programs, and Project Management

Damon Stacy
Mechanical Engineer
Engineering Division

Not pictured:

Emily Gassman, *Program and Budget Analyst, Resource Management*
Mary Perry, *Accountant, Resource Management*
Lakesha Perry, *Office Automation Clerk, P3MD*
Patricia Germano, *Project Management Specialist, P3MD*
Deborah Brown, *Budget and Program Analyst, Resource Management*
Thomas Murphy, *Electrical Engineer, Engineering Division*
Christopher Hogan, *Civil Engineer, Engineering Division*
Roheen Paul, *Land Surveyor, Engineering Division*
Megan Elliott, *STEP, Engineering Division*
Jade Young, *Biologist, Engineering Division*
Jacob Bell, *Construction Control Representative, Construction Division*
Douglas Sheffer, *Civil Engineer, Construction Division*
Derek Huber, *Civil Engineer, Construction Division*
Matthew Hagewood, *Construction Representative, Construction Division*
Lorenzo Lora, *Construction Representative, Construction Division*
Christopher Colombo, *Resident Engineer, Columbus Project Office*
Leslie Estill, *Project Manager, Operations Division*
Adam Fannin, *Regulatory Specialists, Operations Division*
Matt Dennis, *Regulatory Specialist, Operations Division*
Russell Retherford, *Regulatory Specialist, Operations Division*
Gary Kinman, *Safety Technician, Operations Division*
Brett McCorkle, *Student, Operations Division*

Matthew Teives
Program & Budget Analyst
Resource Management

July and August Retirements

Jennifer Beaty, *Operations Division*
Michael Brown, *Operations Division, McAlpine Locks and Dam*
Daniel Lagrange, *Operations Division*
Sharon Logsdon, *Planning, Programs, and Project Management*
Connie Peyton, *Engineering Division*
Lana Rothrock, *Planning, Programs, and Project Management*
David Sennett, *Construction Division*
David Singleton, *Operations Division, Markland Locks and Dam*

Louisville District's newest employees take the oath of office during new employee orientation July 28.

By the numbers...

The Louisville District currently has:

- 1,426 employees
- 21 Department of the Army Interns
- 19 volunteers deployed

Barren River Lake salutes Scouts, American flag

Article and photos by Barren River Lake staff

The 15th Annual Barren River Lake Scout Celebration was held at the Tailwater Recreation area on Aug. 14-16. Thirty-five Boy and Girl scout units throughout Kentucky and Tennessee attended this year's event. It is estimated that over 650 people were in attendance for Saturday's program.

The Barren River Lake Scout Celebration is facilitated by the project staff as a sign of appreciation for all the volunteer work donated by scouts to the lake. The celebration is one of the larger scouting events taking place in Kentucky and is unique in its programming due to the fact that both Boy and Girl scouts are in attendance which does not occur at traditional scout-sanctioned events.

The theme for this year's event was "Keep Your World Healthy." This theme encouraged scouts to demonstrate methods that they use in maintaining safe and productive environments conducive to conservation and preservation. Saturday's activities included canoeing, kayaking, archery, axe throwing, fishing, an 'Iron Chef' inspired cooking competition and an opportunity for scouts to display exhibits designed around this year's theme.

Saturday morning began with a flag raising ceremony followed by welcoming remarks from project park rangers and Col. Keith Landry. Landry, who attained the rank of Eagle Scout in his youth showed support for the event by engaging in activities alongside the scouts, fielding questions and comments from the attending public. Landry also brought challenge coins to be given to scouts that demonstrated good safety skills and dedication for supporting the event.

Also in attendance for the 2009 celebration was special guest Bob Heft, the designer of the current 50- star American flag. Heft, a retired school teacher and current motivational speaker, spoke with the scouts about his experience in designing and creating the flag which began as a history project while in high school. Heft spoke for over an hour and ended his presentation by leading the scouts in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Canoeing was one of many activities at this year's scout celebration at Barren River Lake.

Saturday night ended with a campfire program at the amphitheater, where scout leaders were asked to perform skits for the children and awards were handed out for competitions and exhibits. A slide show presentation of pictures that were taken throughout the weekend ended the night. Overall the event was a success for Barren River Lake and for the scouts in attendance.

Orientation at Gulf Region District

Matthew Burg

The North and Central Districts in Iraq have merged to create a super district called Gulf Region District. A new comers' orientation was held recently at Gulf Region District Headquarters at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq. Above is the group and their security team which provides security for civilians traveling to job sites.

O'Boyle nominated for water safety delivery team

Caesar Creek Lake Park Ranger Jim O'Boyle was recently selected as the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division representative to the USACE Headquarters Water Safety Delivery Team.

O'Boyle, who has been a park ranger for more than 16 years, has worked with thousands of children over the years teaching the importance of water safety. He is currently one of two Louisville District representatives to the Ohio River Division Water Safety Project Delivery Team (PDT).

"Working on our Division Water Safety PDT has provided me with insight into the needs of the dedicated staff," said O'Boyle. "I have grown to appreciate the challenges of the Great Lakes Districts and how they effectively promote water safety with almost no ranger staff."

"His participation and efforts will be instrumental in developing some great initiatives for water safety," said Rick Morgan, operations chief.

Jim Pisarowicz

Louisville District job vacancies

Deployable Project Manager

A life cycle project manager vacancy will be announced in the near future.

Serves as a life-cycle project manager, with responsibility for managing the planning, scoping, development, design, construction, and direction of important civil works/military projects. Assures the efficient, effective, and timely accomplishment and coordination for civil, military or environmental projects. Prepares, presents and testifies on behalf of the district before state and local governments, contractors, other agencies, and Congress.

FEST-M Senior Level Contract Specialist

(Four vacancy announcements: SWGJ09305586AYR)

Serves as a senior contract specialist. Responsible for negotiation, award and administration of contracts. Transactions involve highly complex, cost-plus fixed-fee, incentive, award fee and indefinite delivery types of contracts and contracts which incorporate a mixture of features.

Snapshot from the past

The Monongahela and Ohio Dredging Company dredges the channel at the Portland bar Dec. 21, 1939.

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